

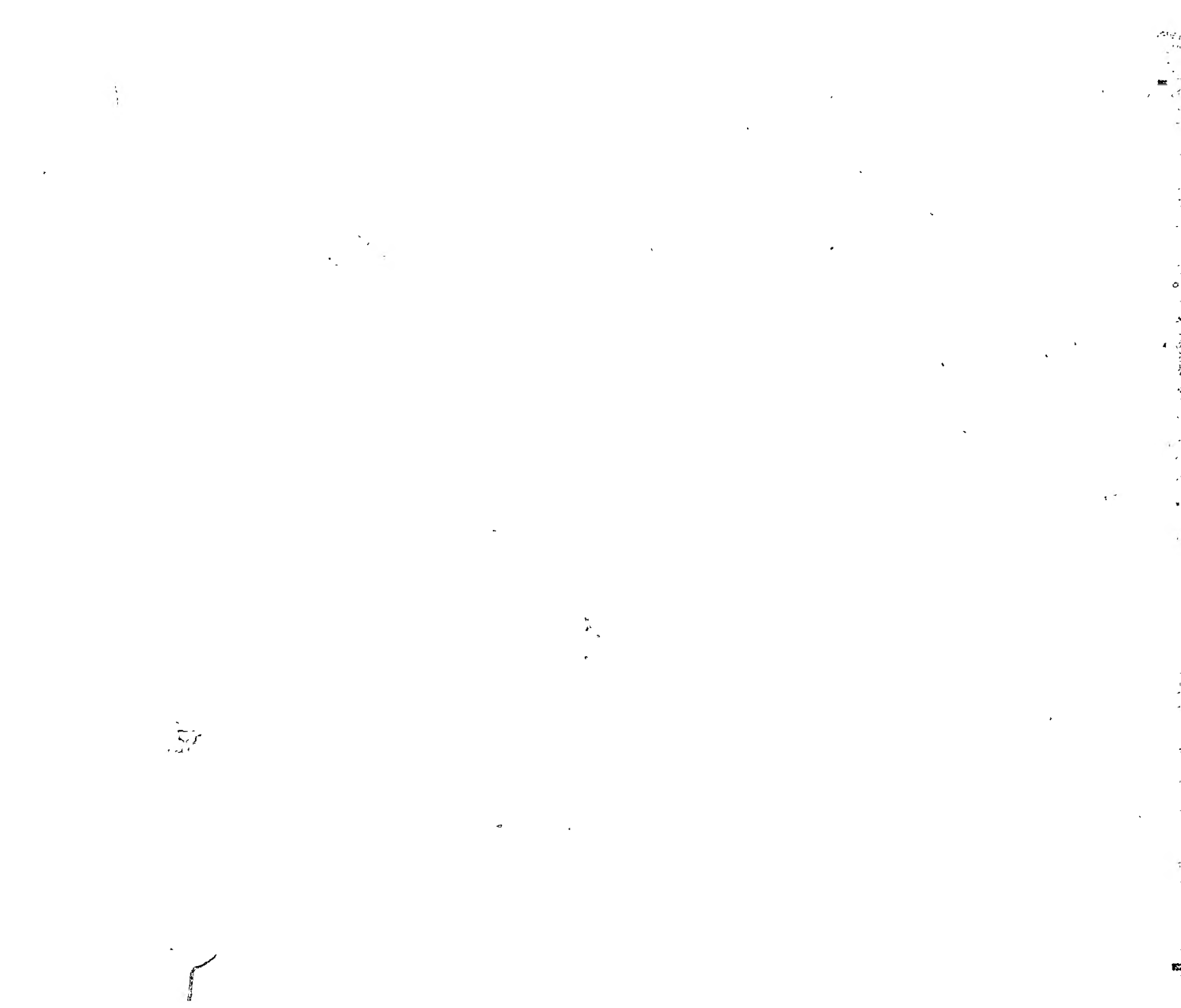
OFFICERS, N.C.Os. *and* MEN

50th

Overseas Battalion C.E.F.



PUBLISHED BY STAFFORD & KENT, ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS, CALGARY, ALBERTA



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Souvenir



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By kind permission of Lieut.-Col. E. G. Mason, Officer Commanding

Dedicated to Mrs. E. G. Mason

In presenting this history, the publishers desire to express their grateful acknowledgement for the assistance received from Lieut.-Col. E. G. Mason, which made possible the production of this book

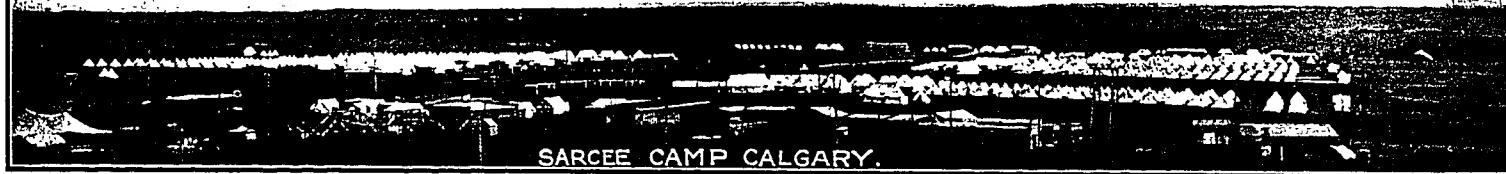
Stafford & Kent

Artists, Designers, and Photographers, Calgary

1918

Illustrated History

of the
50th Overseas Battalion C.E.F.



SARCEE CAMP CALGARY.



THE 50th Overseas Battalion C. E. F. was formed for the purpose of providing additional strength to the Canadian Expeditionary Force forming part of the British Army, for service in the war against Germany. This Battalion was authorized from the Headquarters Military District, Number 13, and the Command offered to Major E. G. MASON, of the 31st Battalion, C. O. E. F., by the District Officer Commanding, in letter dated December 15, 1914.

Recruiting commenced in the City of Calgary, Alberta, on the 30th day of December, 1914, and was carried on until the Battalion was up to full strength. The majority of the recruits were enlisted in Calgary.

MAJOR J. L. R. PARRY (2nd in Command) visited the following points as recruiting officer:—

BANFF.

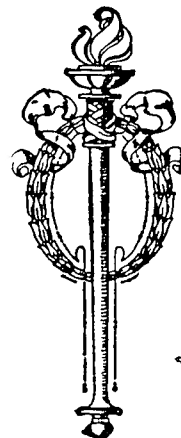
MACLEOD.

MEDICINE HAT.

HIGH RIVER.

LETHBRIDGE.

BROOKS.



He enlisted 89 men, a large percentage of this number having had previous military experience. Many more recruits presented themselves for enlistment than it was possible to take on.

The establishment of the 50th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., is four companies and comprises as follows: —

HEADQUARTERS

FOUR COMPANIES.

MACHINE GUN SECTION.

The Battalion is also equipped with a Brass Band, a Bugle Band and several members who play the pipes.

On April 30th, 1915 word was received from the District Officer Commanding to select a draft for Overseas service, comprised of one Captain, four Subalterns, eight Sergeants, seven Corporals and two hundred and fifty-two men. The Officers selected were:—

CAPTAIN GAITSKELL

LIEUT. WHITAKER

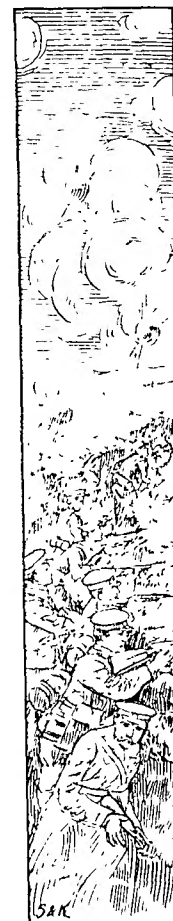
LIEUT ROBERTSON

LIEUT TOOLE.

LIEUT JEPHSON

The 250 men were selected equally from each Company. This Draft trained with the Battalion, while in Victoria Barracks but on being moved to Sarcee Camp on May 21st, 1915, it was separated from the Mother Unit and became a Command in itself.

On June 9th, 1915, the Draft left in conjunction with a like Unit from the 51st Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., for England. When this Draft was taken off the strength of the 50th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., the Unit was again recruited up to full strength, plus 100 additional men as base details.





LIEUT.-COLONEL E. G. MASON

Enlisted in the 13th Royal Regiment, Hamilton, Ontario, February 13th, 1891. Served six years as a Private and Sergeant. Transferred to the 3rd Victoria Rifles, Montreal, 1897, with which Corps served six years, coming West in 1902, resigned.

On the organization of the 103rd Regiment, Calgary Rifles, was gazetted Major, 2nd in Command and qualified at the first provisional school of infantry held in Calgary, 1910.

Attended field manoeuvres annually with 13th and 3rd Regiments and the three annual camps of instruction held in Calgary, 1912, 1913 and 1914.

Selected Major, 2nd in Command of 31st Battalion, C. O. E. F., on its organization and when authority for organizing the 50th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F., was received from Ottawa, was selected to Command the Battalion.

OFFICERS OF THE 50th OVERSEAS BATTALION OF THE CANADIAN INFANTRY



Lieut. L.G. Caswell



Lieut. J.E. Gurney



Lieut. J.E. Gurney



Captain T.B. Howell



Lieut. Col. E. G. Mason



Captain J. G. Aylward



Lieut. N.A. Woodward



Lieut. N.A. Woodward



Lieut. P.A. Potts



Lieut. P.A. Potts



European War

DESIGNED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY STANTON & SONS

LIST OF OFFICERS.

Lieut-Colonel E. G. Mason.

Major J. L. R. Parry.

Major L. Johnstone.

Adjutant, Captain J. S. Wright.

Assistant Adjutant, Lieut. G. F. Aylward.

Paymaster, Captain T. B. T. Hewett.

Quartermaster, Captain D. B. Niblock.

Machine Gun Officer, Lieut. A. E. Ladler.

Medical Officer, Captain A. C. C. Johnstone.

Signalling Officer, Lieut. L. J. Hextall.

"A" COMPANY.

Capt L. O. Webster.

Lieut. C. J. L. Sanderson.

Acting 2nd in Command

Lieut. E. B. McLean.

Lieut. L. G. Casewell.

Lieut. J. H. Quanbury.

Lieut. A. G. Ahern.

"B" COMPANY.

Capt R. B. Eaton.

Capt. S. R. Farguharson.

Lieut. R. B. Barnes.

Lieut. R. E. Pryce-Jones.

Lieut. W. J. Eveleigh.

Lieut. G. F. Ambery.

"C" COMPANY.

Capt. C. W. McKittrick.

Capt. D. C. P. Maturin.

Lieut. J. Basevi.

Lieut. N. P. Woodward.

Lieut. L. E. Candy.

Lieut. T. A. Potts.

"D" COMPANY.

Capt. H. L. Keegan.

Capt. J. F. Costigan.

Lieut. J. F. Proctor.

Lieut. W. Jull.

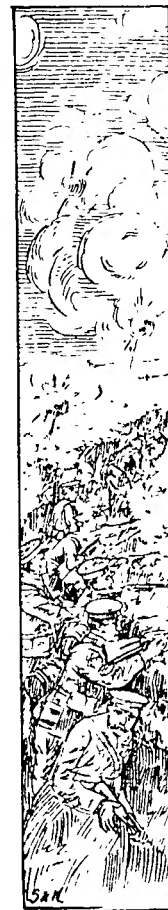
Lieut. C. F. Gifford.

Lieut. W. V. P. Clery.

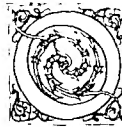
DRAFT.

Captain C. W. Gaitskell, Lieut. J. M. Jephson, Lieut. A. J. Toole.

Lieut. D. C. Robertson, Lieut. H. A. Whitaker.



THE FIRST DRAFT FROM THE 50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C E F



On April 30th, 1915, the first draft was called for the 50th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F., consisting of one Captain and Subalterns, eight Sergeants, eight Corporals and 250 men. It left for England from Sarcee Camp, on June 9th, 1915.

The Officers chosen were:—Captain C. W. Gaitskell, Lieut. D. C. Robertson, Lieut. J. M. Jephson, Lieut. A. J. Toole, Lieut. H. A. Whitaker.

Captain Gaitskell is a soldier of long standing, having first seen service fifteen years ago at the outbreak of the South African War. His previous service is as follows:—

May, 1899, to December, 1901—6th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers (Militia), South Africa, Queen's Medal and four Clasps.

December, 1901, to February, 1903—3rd L. F., Barbados W. I.

February, 1903, to August, 1903—Attached 1st Leicestershire Regiment, Bellary, India.

August, 1903, to October, 1905—1st L. F., Gibraltar

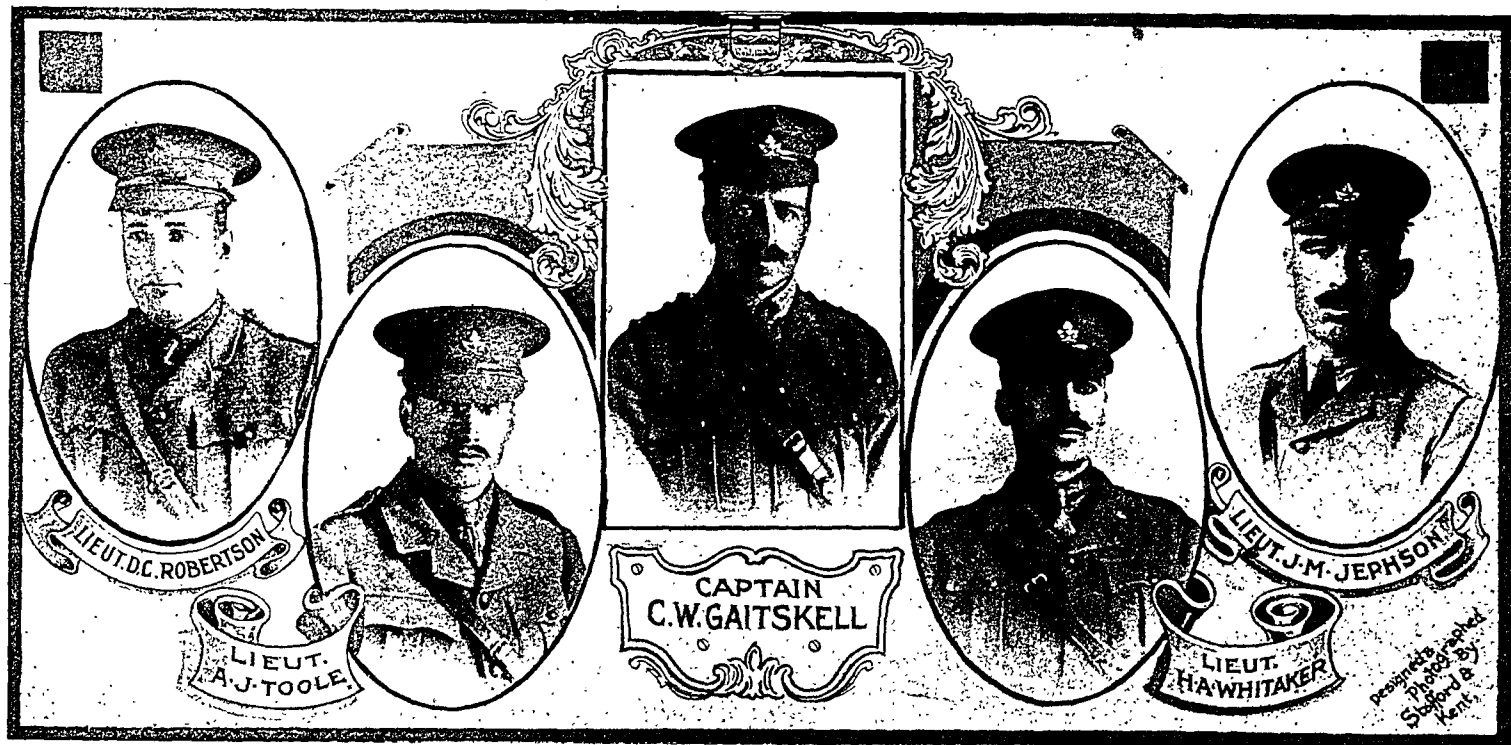
October, 1905, to October, 1907—1st L. F., Malta.

Lieutenant Robertson has seven years previous military experience to his credit. He served four years with the 1st Lanarks, Glasgow, and from 1909 to 1911, he was with the 18th Mounted Rifles, Winnipeg. In 1914 he took the school of instruction under Colonel Cruikshank, District Officer Commanding. Was granted a Commission in the 50th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., December, 1914.

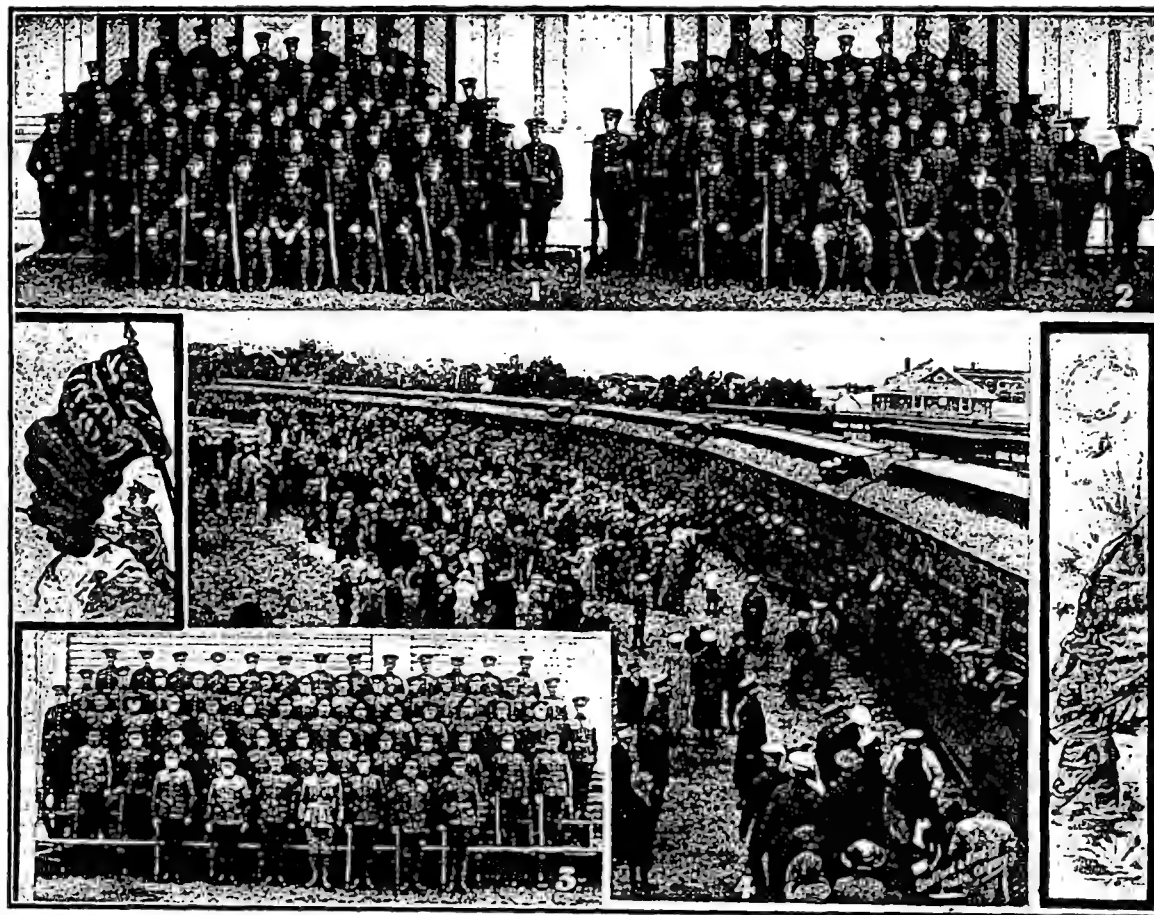
Mr. Jephson qualified as a Lieutenant in the school of instruction, held at Calgary, November and December, 1914, under Colonel Cruikshank, District Officer Commanding, and granted a Commission in the 50th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F.

Mr. Toole and Mr. Whitaker qualified in the same school as Mr. Jephson, and both were granted Commissions in the 50th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F.





OFFICERS OF DRAFT—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.



GROUP OF DRAFTS AND DEPARTURE OF TRAIN—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.

HISTORY OF "A" AND "B" COMPANIES, 50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F. AND ITS COMMANDER.



WHEN recruiting started the first two hundred men were divided into four Units of fifty men each to form a skeleton of a Company and as recruiting progressed, each Company was added to equally until the Battalion was up to full strength.

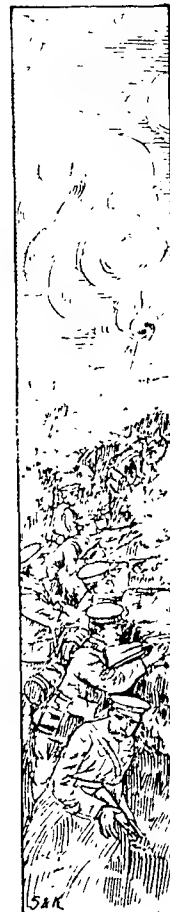
CAPTAIN L. JOHNSTON, now Major, was the first Commander of "A" Company, Captain L. O. Webster succeeding him on his promotion.

CAPTAIN WEBSTER donned the King's uniform fifteen years ago, when he saw service for the first time with the 34th Regiment. His military service is as follows:

- 1900 to 1904—34th Regiment, Ranks.
- 1904 to 1906—45th Regiment, Sergeant-Major.
- 1906 to 1908—Royal Canadian Regiment.
- 1910 —Appointed Lieutenant 46th Regiment.
- 1913 —R. O. 45th Regiment.
- 1914 —Granted a Commission in the 50th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F.

"B" COMPANY.

"B" Company is certainly lucky to have for Commander a man such as CAPTAIN R. B. EATON. His record is one to be proud of:—





A Company
Capt. L.O. Webster



Capt. C.J.L. Sanderson
Acting 2nd. in command A Co.



Major L. Johnstone

First Class B Certificate, Royal School of Infantry, Fredericton,
New Brunswick, 1888

2nd Lieutenant, 93rd Battalion Cumberland Infantry, 1889-1890.
Resigned.

Enlisted in Canadian Mounted Rifles at Calgary, December, 1899.
Second Contingent, South African War. Served as Private
and Corporal until January, 1901. Continually on duty with
Regiment throughout operations in Cape Colony, Kenhardt
Rebellion, General Advance (Lord Roberts) through Orange
Free State, Sand River, Vet River, Transvaal, Johannesburg,
Pretoria, Diamond Hill.

Served under General Smith-Dorrien in operations in the vicinity
of Belfast.

Paraded and complimented by Major-General Hutton for personal
bravery in an affair of outposts, which was successfully held
in vicinity of Nooitgedecht against odds of three to nineteen

Recommended for bravery by Major-General Smith-Dorrien in
operations in vicinity of Belfast (Transvaal).

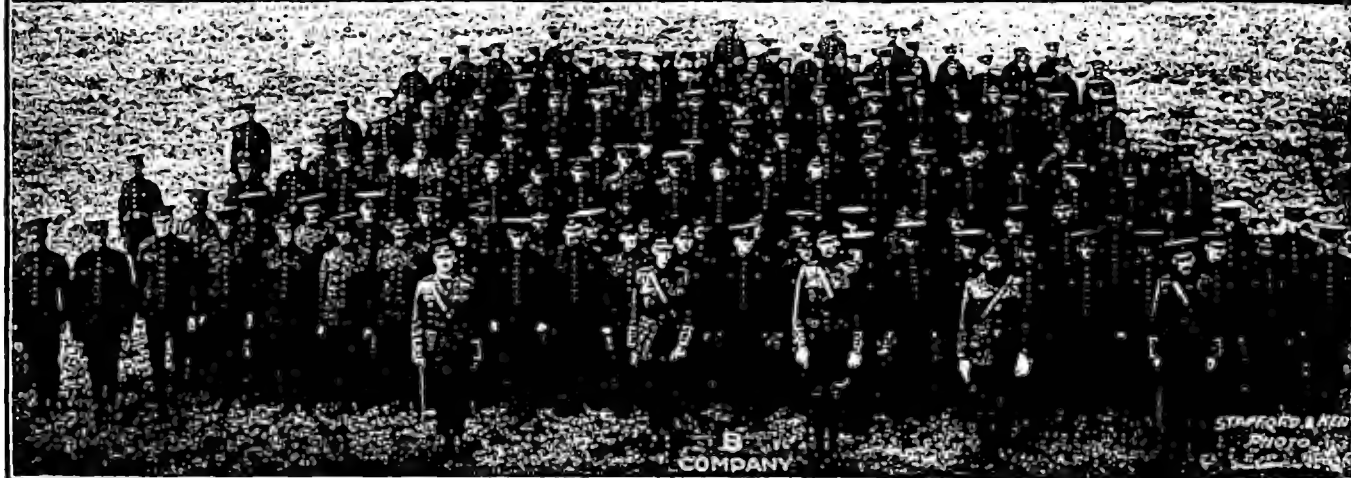
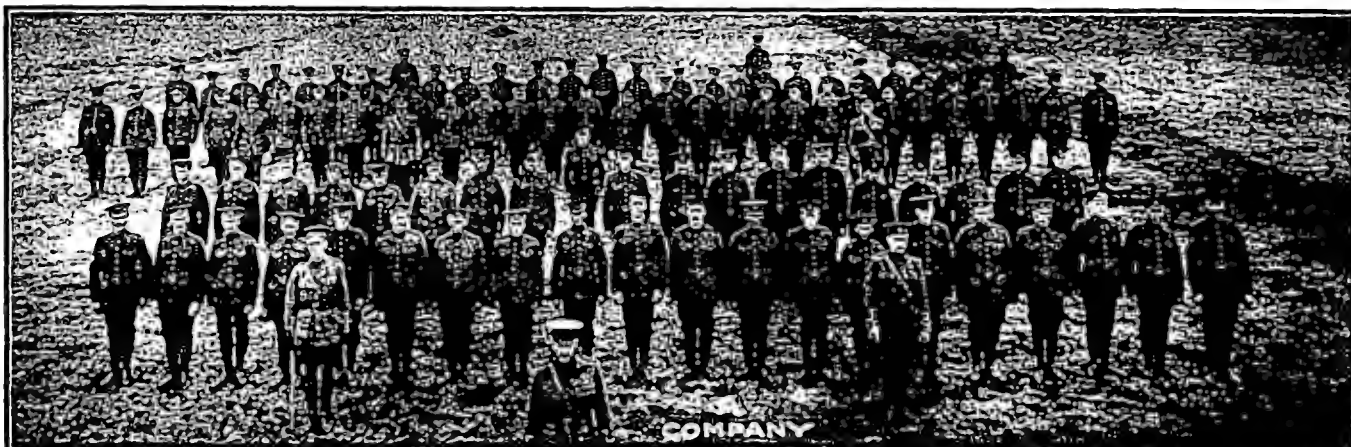
Later served in operations in Orange River Colony and returned
with Regiment to Canada in January, 1901.



B Company
Capt. R.B. Eaton



Capt. S.R. Farguharson
B Company





"C" Company
Capt. C. W. Mckittrick



Capt. D. G. P. Matwin
"C" Company



Major J. L. R. Parnell

"C" COMPANY

CAPTAIN MCKITTRICK, Commander, has long experience in military life, as history shows he first put on a uniform seventeen years ago. His previous service is as follows:

Previous Service:—

Captain Commanding Petrolia High School Cadets Corps, 1898 to 1900.

Lieutenant, 27th Lambton Regiment (St. Clair Borderers), 1900 to 1904.

Captain, 27th Regiment, 1904 to 1910; R. O., 1910 to 1915

Qualifications:—

Captain's certificate at Woolseley Barracks, dated May 30th, 1900

Musketry certificate (Canadian School of Musketry, Ottawa, 1903

"D" COMPANY.

CAPTAIN C. W. GAITSKELL was chosen as Commander of "D" Company, and subsequently he was given command of the Overseas Draft, upon which Captain H. L. Keegan was given the Command of this Company. Capt. Keegan's previous service is as follows:—

1901-1906 to Sergeant, Stoneyhurst Corps, 6th Battalion East Lancashire Regiment.

1906—Gazetted to 3rd Battalion, The Connaught Rangers.

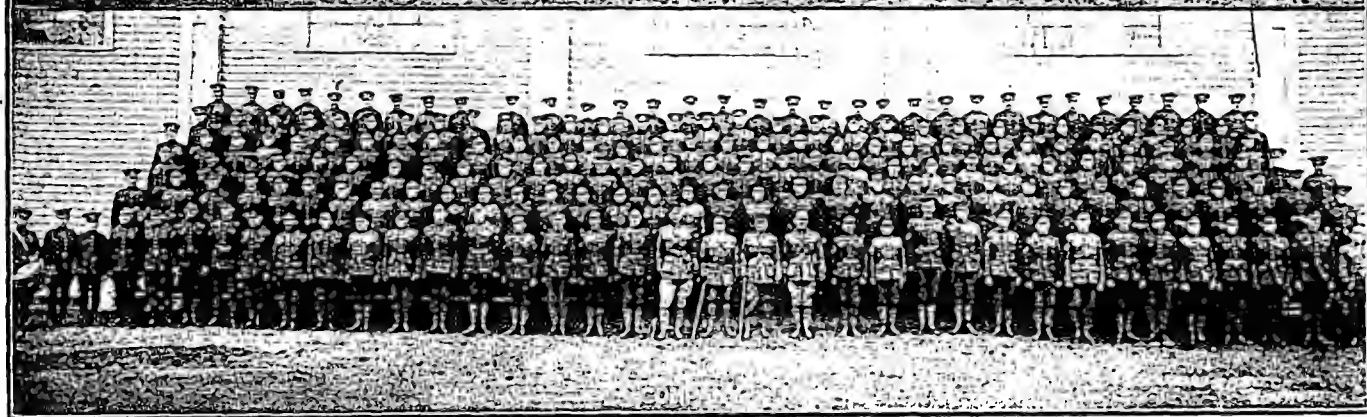
1906—Attached for Instruction, four months, to 2nd Battalion, The Connaught Rangers.

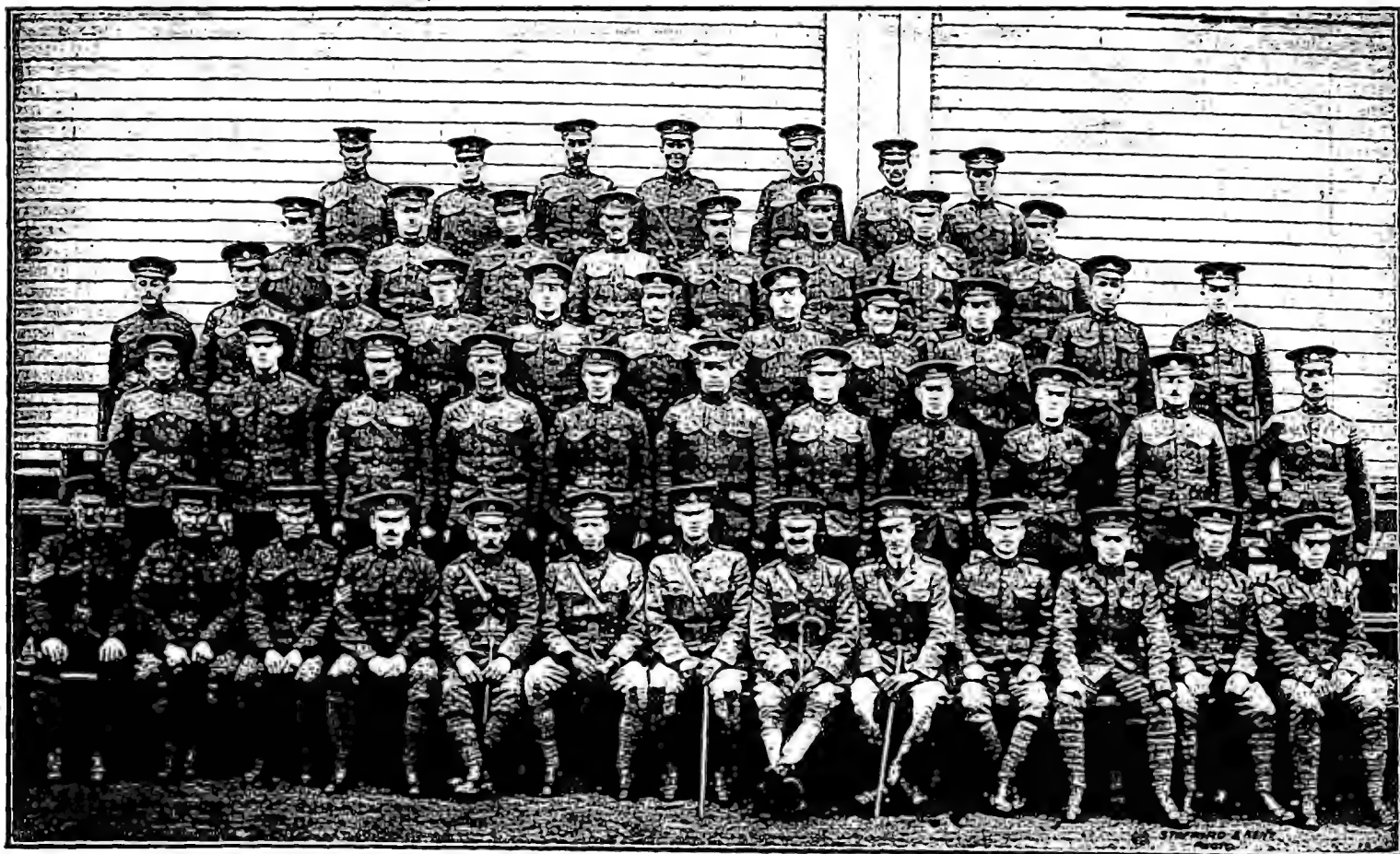


"D" Company
Capt. H. L. Keegan

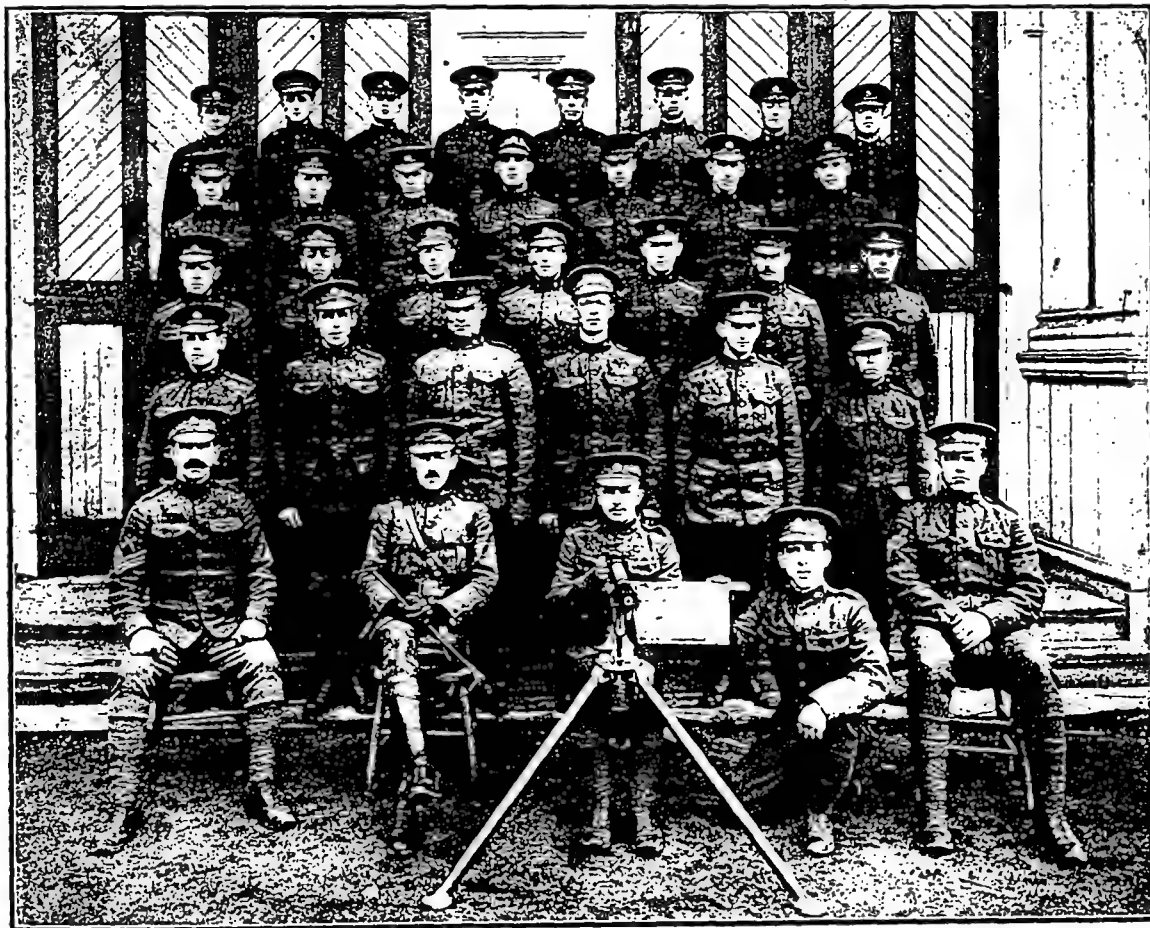


Capt. J. F. Costigan
"D" Company





GROUP OF SERGEANTS—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.



MACHINE GUN SECTION—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.

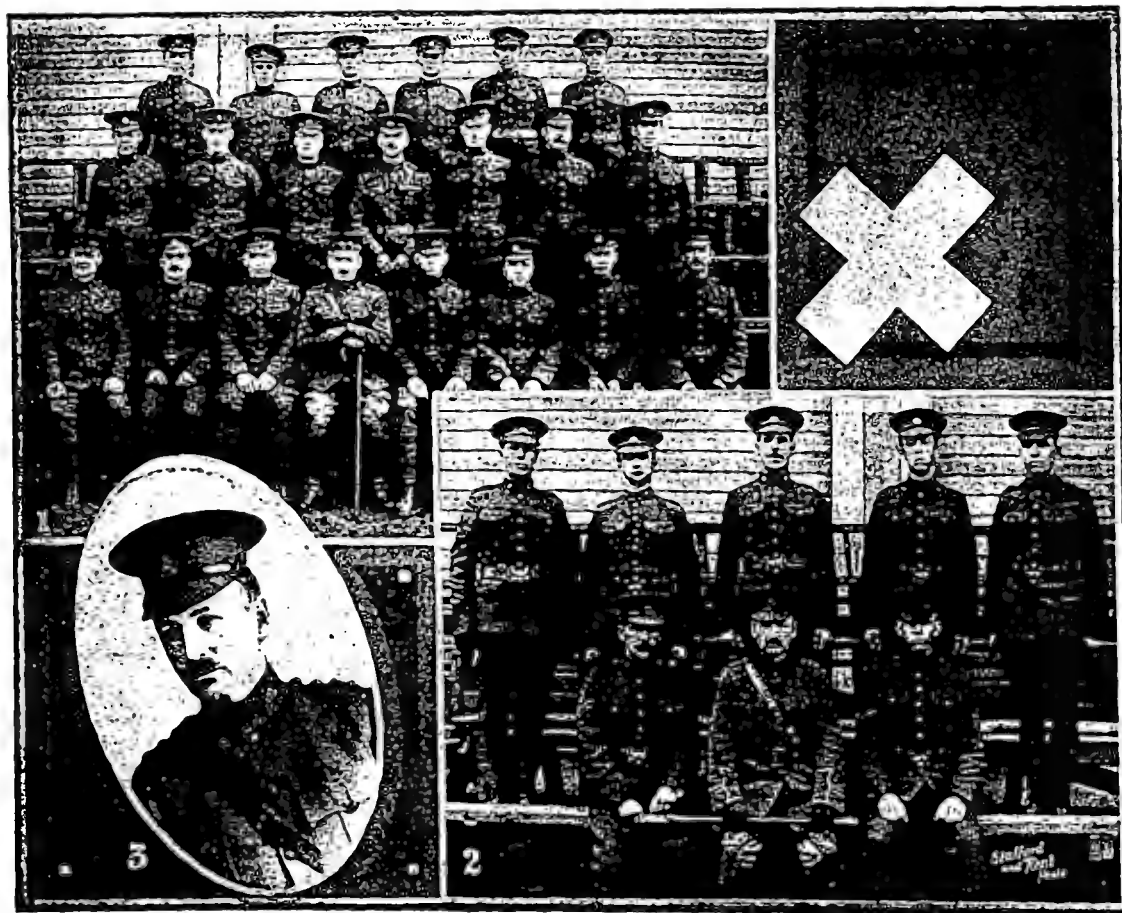




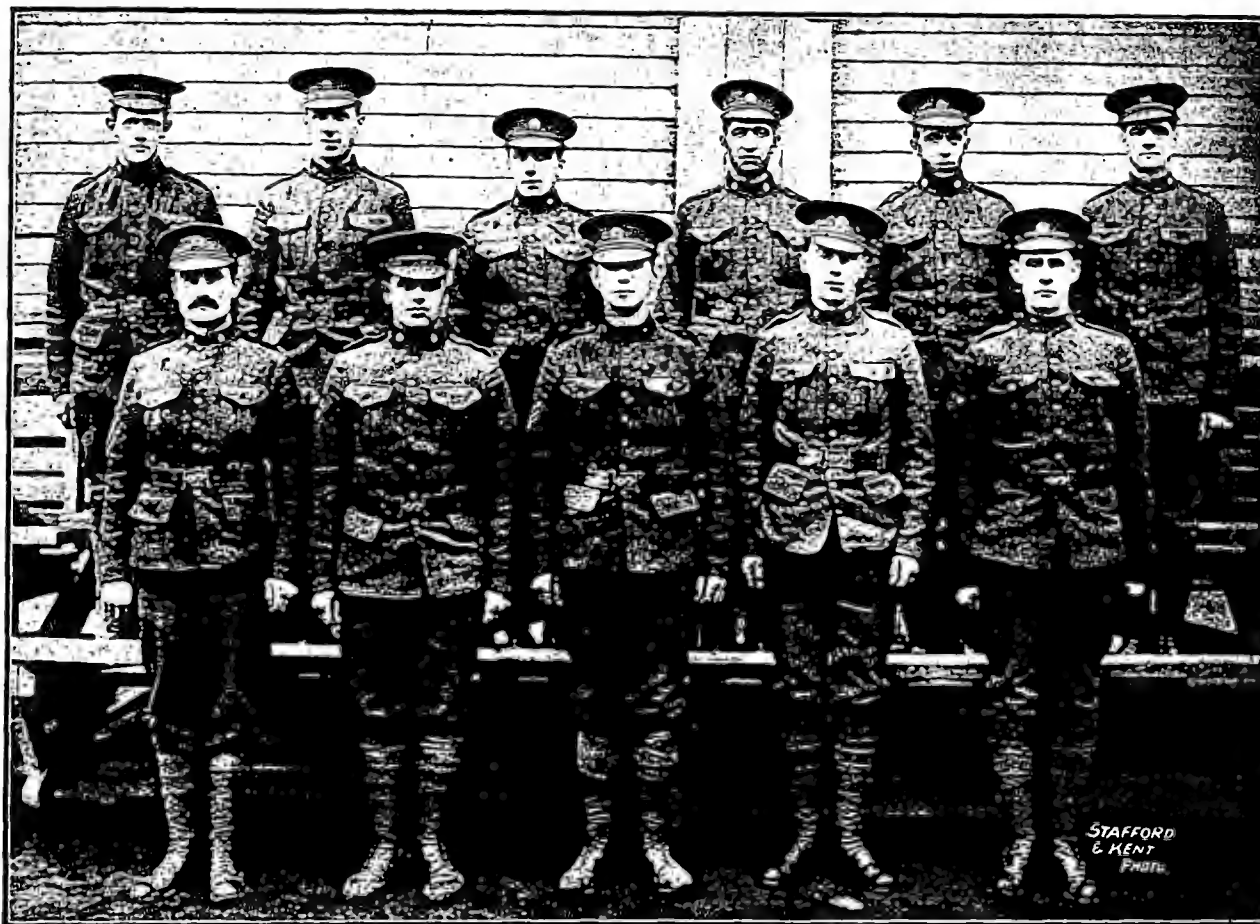
BUGLE BAND—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.



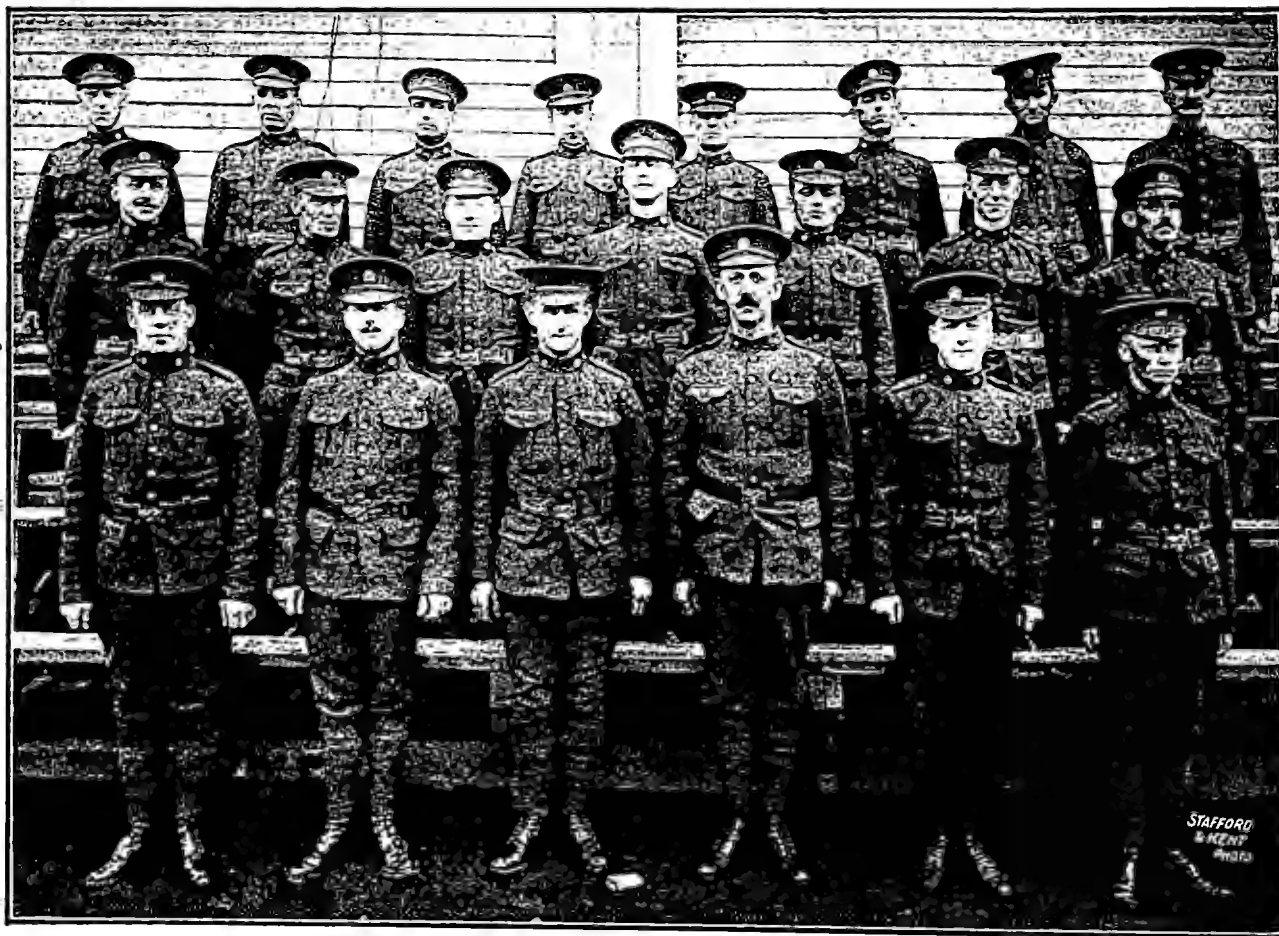
REGIMENTAL BAND—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.



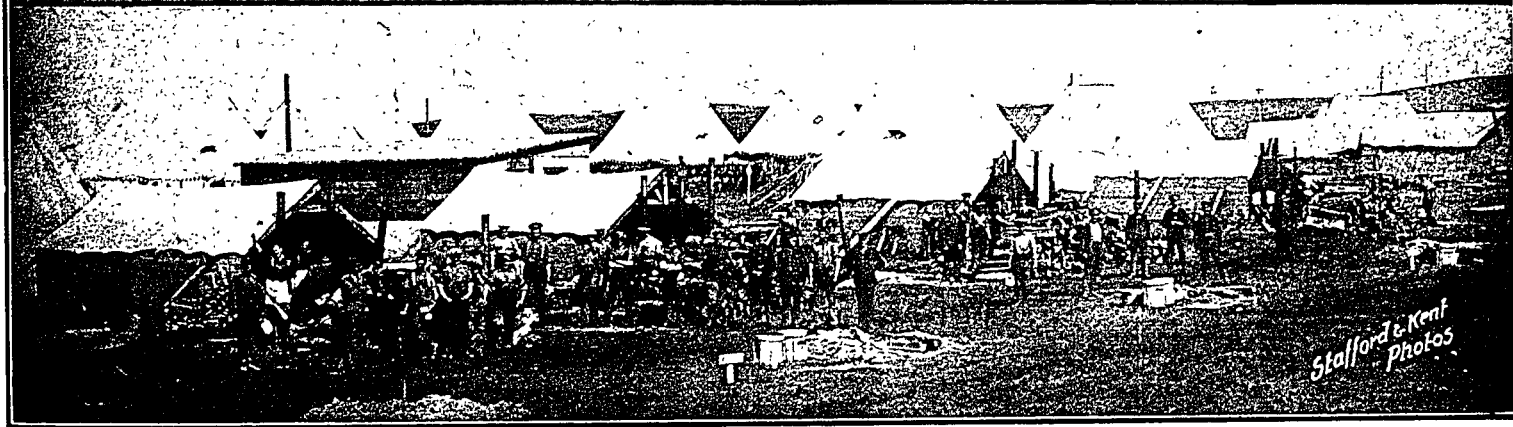
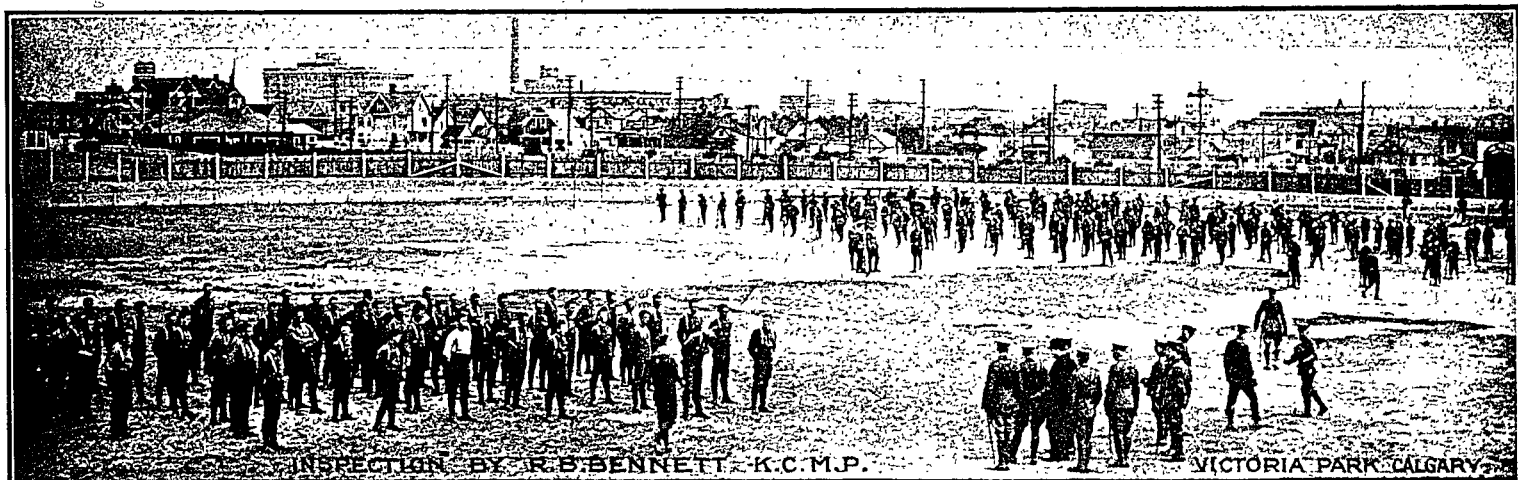
1—STRETCHER BEARERS. 2.—MEDICAL STAFF. 3—CAPT. A. C. C. JOHNSTONE. 50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION C.E.F.



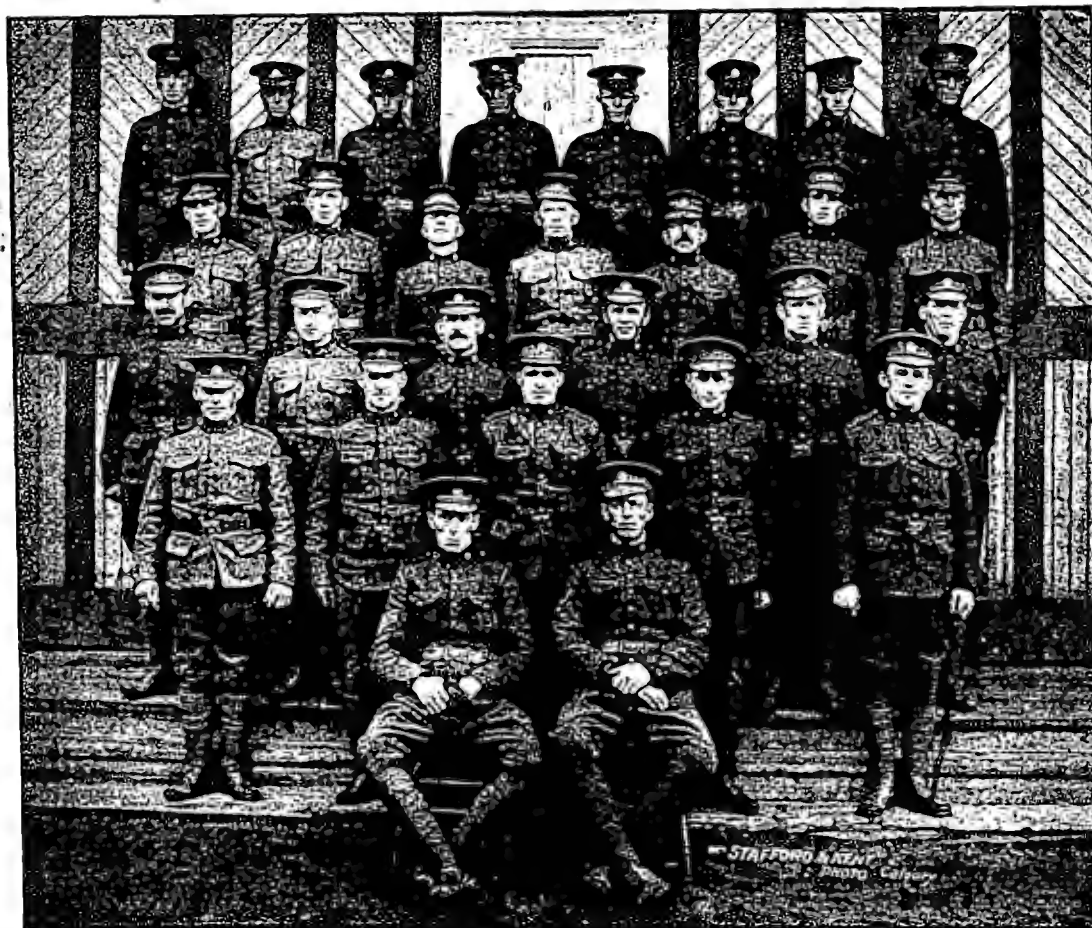
PIONEER DETACHMENT—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.



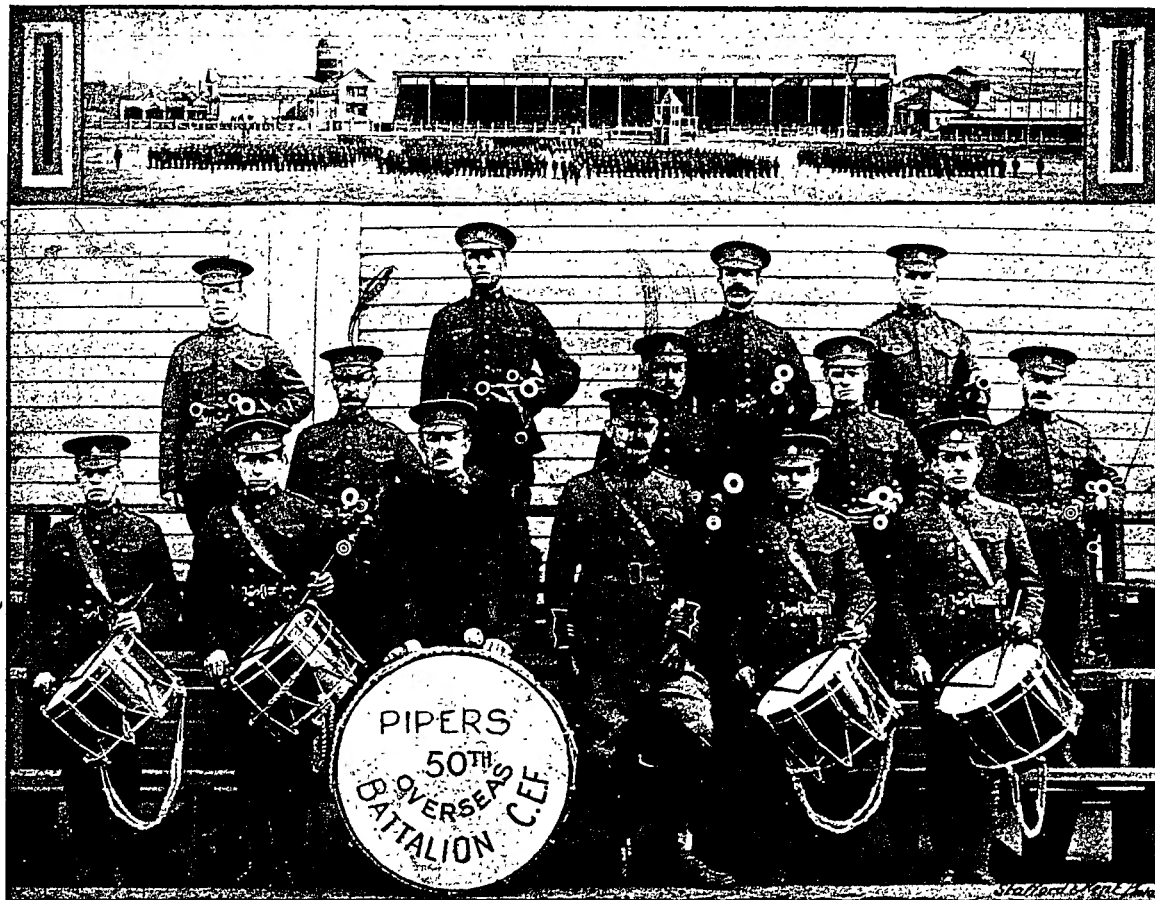
COOKS—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.



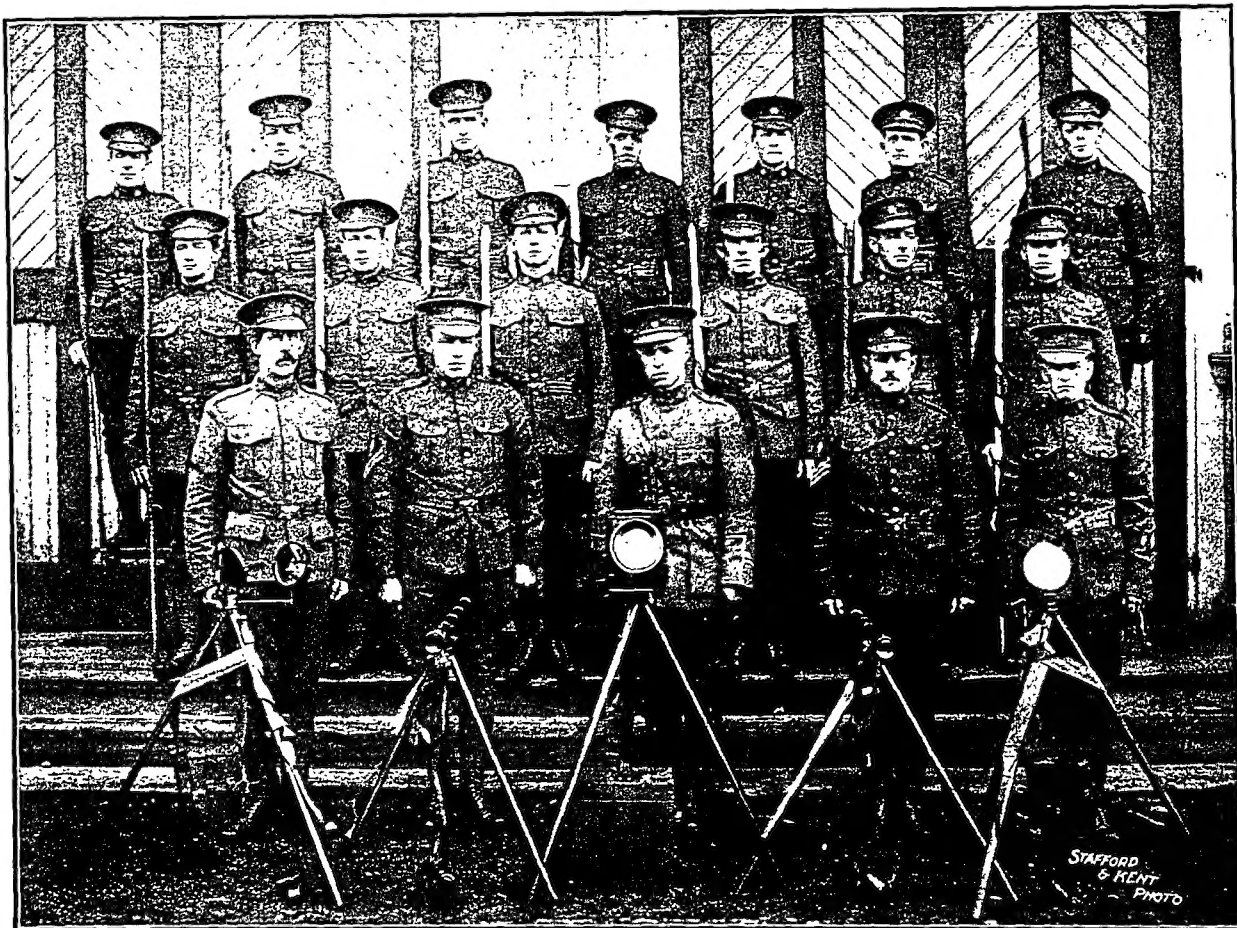
UPPER PICTURE—R. B. BENNETT, K.C., M.P., INSPECTING.
 LOWER PICTURE—CAMP KITCHENS, 50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.



TRANSPORTS—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.



UPPER PICTURE—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F., ON PARADE AT VICTORIA PARK.
LOWER PICTURE—THE PIPER'S BAND OF THE BATTALION.



SIGNALLERS—50TH OVERSEAS BATTALION, C. E. F.



LIST OF CUP DONATIONS.

No. 1—Princess Theatre Cup, presented by The Princess Theatre.

No. 2—The Stafford & Kent Cup, presented by Stafford & Kent, Artists and Photographers, Calgary.

No. 3—The Saddlery Cup, presented by The Great West Saddlery Co., Calgary Saddlery Co., Riley & McCormick.

No. 4—The Chapin Cup, presented by O. S. Chapin, Esq.

No. 5—The Layzell Cup, presented by A. Layzell, Auctioneer.

No. 6—Alexander Hotel Cup, presented by Adams & Peers, Alexander Hotel.

No. 7—Victoria Hotel Cup, presented by Proprietor, Victoria Hotel.

No. 8—Cup, presented by Margolis & Goldberg.

No. 9—The Guarantee Jewellers Cup, presented by The Guarantee Jewellers.

No. 10—The D. E. Black Cup, presented by D. E. Black, Jeweller.

No. 11—The Crist Bros. Cup, presented by J. Crist, Esq.

No. 12—The Windsor Hotel Cup, presented by The Windsor Hotel.

No. 13—Pepper Bros Cup, presented by Pepper Bros, Pork Butchers.

No. 14—The Ritchie Cup, presented by Sergeant A. D. Ritchie.

No. 15—The McCrystle Cup, presented by Phli. W. McCrystle.

The above list of silver cups, together with a number of other useful and valuable prizes were presented to the Battalion as prizes for shooting competitions, by generous citizens of Calgary.

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